

Red River Watershed Management Board

1298 South Shore Drive Detroit Lakes, MN 56501 Phone: (218)844-6166, Fax: (218)844-6167

Board of Managers

John Finney, President-Humboldt Farrell Erickson, Vice Pres.-Badger Dan Money-Hallock Ron Osowski-Oslo
Orville Knott-Red Lake Falls Daniel Wilkens, Treasurer-Fertile Robert Wright, Secretary-Felton Jerome Deal-Wheaton
Naomi Erickson, Administrator-Detroit Lakes

RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

April 18, 2006

Sand Hill River Watershed District, Fertile, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, April 18, 2006, at the Sand Hill River Watershed District, Fertile, Minnesota.

Chairman John Finney called the meeting to order.

Members present were: Farrell Erickson Dan Money
Orville Knott Daniel Wilkens
Robert Wright Jon Roeschlein

Others present were: Naomi Erickson, Administrator
Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator
Diane Ista, Wild Rice WD
Maynard Pick, Congressman Peterson's office
Wayne Goeken, Monitoring Coordinator
Rob Sando, Administrator, Roseau River WD
Jim Skaurud, Wild Rice WD
Mike Bakken, Engineer, JOR Engineering
Ron Adrian, Engineer, Houston Engineering
Nate Dalager, Engineer, HDR Engineering
Don Buckhout, MNDNR Red River Basin Coordinator
Jerry Bents, Engineer, Houston Engineering
Charlie Anderson, Engineer, JOR Engineering
Blake Carlson, Engineer, JOR Engineering
Roger Hanson, Sand Hill River WD
Brian Dwight, Board of Water & Soil Resources

No additional items were added to the agenda.

Motion by Manager Wilkens to approve the minutes as written with minor corrections, **Seconded** by Manager Money, **Carried**.

The Treasurer's report was presented and it was approved as read. **Motion** by Manager Erickson to approve the Treasurer's Report, **Seconded** by Manager Knott, **Carried**. A one-page handout of monthly bills to be approved was distributed. **Motion** to approve and pay bills by Manager Wright, **Seconded** by Manager Roeschlein, **Carried**. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

Legislative Report

Manager Finney reported that he has discussed the legislative session with Ray Bohn of Media & Government Affairs (MGA). Mr. Bohn indicated that all of the funding sought by the RRWMB on behalf of member districts has been approved.

Manager Finney added that Mr. Bohn suggested that a public relations firm be retained by the board in order to highlight projects that have progressed through the mediation process and obtained state funding for construction. Manager Wilkens referred to the RRBC and stated that typically professional organizations designate 20% of their budget to public relations. Manager Money suggested that articles could be prepared and published in the *News & Views* newsletter that would highlight projects progressing through project development. Manager Finney requested N. Erickson to inquire with the RRBC about potential public relation firms in the Red River basin.

Manager Finney noted that Mr. Bohn also suggested reviewing the natural resource enhancement language in the mediation agreement. Don Buckhout added that previously Ron Harnack, Executive Director-BWSR, had also suggested reviewing this portion of the mediation agreement.

Manager Finney distributed a draft job description for the position of Financial Coordinator. He requested the Board of Managers to review the handout for further discussion at upcoming meetings.

Red River Basin Commission

Manager Wilkens reported that the *Time for Action Water Management Workshop* is scheduled for Wednesday, April 19, 2006 at the Grand Forks Holiday Inn. The workshop is intended for all levels of local leaders to provide information on water quality issues and provide solutions to upgrade the health of the shared water resources.

Water Quality Project Monitoring Report

Wayne Goeken, Monitoring Coordinator, distributed a handout regarding Flood Damage Reduction, Condition & TMDL Monitoring and River Watch activities. Condition monitoring began in the southern and mid-basin on Monday, April 3rd. Flood damage reduction and TMDL monitoring has also begun for the year. Flood damage reduction sites have been monitored in the northern basin but only about half of the Condition and TMDL sites have been monitored through the first two weeks of April due to flooding and inaccessible sites.

Administrator Report

A) Eighth Annual Joint Conference

N. Erickson reported that the Eighth Annual Joint Conference of the Red River Watershed Management Board and the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group was conducted on March 30, 2006, at the Northland Inn, Crookston, MN. Many favorable comments were received regarding the content of the conference.

B) Annual Report

N. Erickson stated that the necessary information has been gathered for the 2005 annual audit to be prepared by Mark Hatton of the accounting firm of Dahl, Hatton, Muir & Reese of Hallock. Mr. Hatton indicated that a meeting will be scheduled with Daniel Wilkens at the Sand Hill River Watershed District to complete the audit. As authorized at the December 20, 2005 board meeting, an annual audit will be conducted each year beginning in 2006.

C) Logo Update

N. Erickson explained that Kris Versdahl & Associates have designed two options for updating the RRWMB logo in conjunction with redesigning the webpage. Previously, Ms. Versdahl had indicated that revising the logo would involve an additional \$500.00 that was not previously authorized in the budget for webpage development, but recently stated that no additional costs would be incurred by the board for selecting one of the two design options. Following discussion, the board agreed on a preferred design with minor suggested revisions.

D) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

1. Time for Action, (Red River Basin Commission) Wednesday, April 19, 2006, 10:00 – 4:00 p.m., Holiday Inn, Grand Forks, ND.
2. Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group, Funding Committee, Wednesday, May 17, 2006, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., at the Alexandria Airport Terminal, Alexandria, MN.
3. Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group, Wednesday, June 7, 2006, Holiday Inn – Lakeside, Detroit Lakes, MN.

District Reports

- The Roseau River WD reported that the Board of Managers have scheduled a project team meeting on May 1st to continue the discussion of a proposed alternative outlet on the west end of the Roseau River Wildlife Management Area (RRWMA) Pool 3. The water that enters the RRWMA is diverted from the Pine Creek River in Canada and currently outlets in a southwesterly course into the Big Swamp area. The proposed new outlet would enter the Roseau River in a westerly course.
- The Red Lake WD reported that at the January 12th board meeting, the Board of Managers appointed three viewers to proceed with a petition to improve the lower 6 miles of Polk County Ditch No. 40. The viewers will present their report regarding the improvement during the first weeks in May. Plans are to begin construction of the project in mid August.
- The Wild Rice WD reported on the South Branch Storage Initiative. A revised version of the Purpose and Needs Statement has been submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for the project. In addition, negotiations with the landowners at the largest off-channel site have also begun. If all goes well, a number of soil borings and geotechnical reports on the site will be completed later this spring. Soil borings have been completed with favorable results and a preliminary geotechnical report is due shortly.
- The Bois de Sioux WD reported that preparations have begun with the River Watch teams for the season of water quality monitoring. Three new laptops have been purchased for the students to use and are being set up with identical programming to ensure that the information is in the appropriate format and Windows compatible. The local County Local Water Plan committee is considering hiring a part-time technician to assist the students with monitoring and managing the data. This person would also be available to monitor rainfall events in the absence of the student teams on short notice.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

Thul stated that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met prior to the board meeting and discussed the DNR/FEMA Lidar collect contracted with Sanborn Map Company of Colorado Springs, CO. An estimate was prepared by Sanborn Map Company to conduct a similar collect on the Minnesota side of the Red River basin, excluding the area in the DNR/FEMA collect. A significant portion of the cost estimate included break lines which outline watercourses. Thul explained that further discussion with Sanborn Map Company is needed to determine whether break lines would need to be included in the estimate. Thul added that the TAC will contact the International Water Institute (IWI) regarding the possibility of a Lidar collect for the Minnesota side of the Red River basin for next year.

Thul stated that at the February 21st board meeting, the board directed the TAC to review the West Interceptor project. The Economic Development Authority (EDA) had requested a resolution from the Roseau River WD with regard to project financing. The estimated cost for the wetland restoration portion of the project is ~ \$500,000, with a 50% cost-share request to be submitted to the RRWMB. Thul explained that the Governing Documents of the RRWMB refer to two types of wetlands that are eligible for cost-share funding which both require the project to store water. Thul noted that following review by the TAC, the committee determined that the natural resource enhancement benefits of the West Interceptor project are not associated with flood storage components.

Thul noted that Charlie Anderson attended a meeting with the Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee (TSAC) of the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group regarding the development of a proposal for culvert sizing. Anderson stated that a sub-group of the TSAC met to develop a three-phase proposal for culvert sizing in the Red River basin. The first phase would include a hypothetical model involving guidelines that could be used by road or drainage authorities. The second phase would be a modeling exercise involving a pilot sub-watershed. The third phase of the proposal would consist of an implementation project including monitoring to determine the effectiveness of the project. The proposal will be presented to the Work Group for funding consideration at a future meeting.

Thul referred to the points of concurrence developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for use by the project teams. He explained that a *Purpose and Needs Statement* is the first item to be addressed when a project team is progressing through the points of concurrence. He noted that the TAC is in the process of developing an all-inclusive Purpose and Needs Statement in support of impoundments in the Red River basin that can be utilized by project teams when completing the points of concurrence.

Thul stated that at the previous monthly meeting the Two Rivers WD requested that Blake Carlson of JOR Engineering be appointed to the TAC. He added that in order to maintain consistency throughout the Red River basin, each member watershed district should be represented on the TAC. **Motion** by Manager Money to authorize Blake Carlson of JOR Engineering, Inc. to be added to the TAC membership, **Seconded** by Manager Wright. Discussion followed.

Manager Finney disagreed that each member watershed district should be represented on the TAC and further noted that the committee can evaluate whatever issues the RRWMB needs addressed. Manager Knott added that in order to provide for continuity on the TAC, current members could inform the board of their intent to retire from the committee so that other members could be requested to attend. As there was no further discussion a vote was taken. Those voting in favor of the motion included: Erickson, Money, Wilkens, Wright, and Roeschlein. Those opposing the motion included: Knott. **Motion carried.**

Wild Rice Watershed District / QuickBooks Set-Up

N. Erickson stated that a request was received from the Wild Rice WD for the RRWMB to provide funding for the set up of the QuickBooks accounting program for their district. She further noted that in April of 1999, the board authorized funding for the implementation of QuickBooks for each watershed district but at that time the Wild Rice WD chose not to convert their accounting program.

Motion by Manager Wilkens to authorize funding for the set up of the QuickBooks accounting program for the Wild Rice Watershed District, **Seconded** by Manager Erickson, **Carried**.

District's Funding Requests

No requests for funds were submitted this month.

The next meeting will be on May 16, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. at the Red Lake Watershed District, Thief River Falls, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Wright
Secretary

Naomi L. Erickson
Administrator